

Onion purple blotch (151)

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On onion, and also shallot, garlic and leek. An important disease.
- Mostly affecting leaves and causing parts above the blotches to collapse and die. Infections at harvest lead to neck rots.
- Spores spread from blotches in wind and rain splash.
- Older leaves damaged by thrips are more susceptible to the fungus.
- Cultural control: disease-free seed; check plants in nursery for leaf spots; remove "volunteers"; use drip irrigation, not overhead; apply manure to increase plant vigour; harvest when dry and cure before storage; 3-year crop rotation; collect trash and burn or plough in after harvest.
- Chemical control: chlorothalonil, copper or mancozeb (protectants); or triazoles (systemics).

Common Name

Onion purple blotch

Scientific Name

Alternaria porri



Photo 1. Purple blotch, *Alternaria porri*, causing spots on leaves of shallots.



Photo 2. Purple blotch, *Alternaria porri*, on leaves of shallots showing zoned spots. Spores are produced in large numbers on these spots.



Photo 4. Purple blotch caused by *Alternaria porri*, on onion. The large spots are oval, purple and up to 150 mm long.

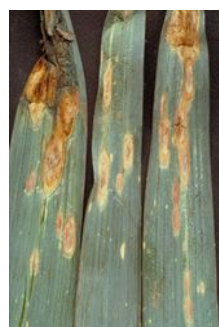


Photo 3. Leaf-tip dieback on leek, caused by the purple blotch fungus, *Alternaria porri*.



Photo 5. Leaf-tip dieback on shallot, caused by the purple blotch fungus, *Alternaria porri*.

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Information (and Photo 3) from Gerlach WMP (1988) *Plant diseases of Western Samoa*. Samoan German Crop Protection Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, Germany, and *Diseases of vegetable crops in Australia* (2010). Editors, Denis Pearsley, et al. CSIRO Publishing; and from Madeiras A (undated) Alliums, purple blotch. The Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, University of Massachusetts Amherst. (<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/alliums-purple-blotch>). Photo 2 Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org. Photos 3&5 Kohler E, et al. (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries*. South Pacific Commission. Priie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia. Photo 4 Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

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